

Meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Lead Ammunition

Wednesday 26th April 2023, 10.00 to 11.00am. Room 1-02, Millbank House, Westminster

In attendance:

Lord Browne of Ladyton (**DB**) (Co-Chair)

Lord Trees (**AT**)

Professor Debbie Pain (**DP**) (University of Cambridge)

Amy Willcock (**AW**) (Warter Priory Estate)

Harriet Davenport (**HW**) (office of Lord Trees)

Luke McLinden (**LM**) (veterinary student, attached to office of Lord Trees)

Matt Browne (**MB**) (WCL)

Dr Ruth Cromie (**RC**) (WWT)

Dr Julia Newth (**JN**) (WWT)

Lucy Jupe (**LJ**) (WWT) (note taker)

1. Opening of meeting & introductions

- Attendees briefly introduced themselves to the group.

2. Minutes of last meeting on 22.11.22

- MB confirmed that minutes of the previous APPG meeting (22.11.22) had been circulated amongst group members. The minutes were approved.

3. Presentation from Professor Debbie Pain

- DP provided an overview of the latest [Shot-Switch](#) research, which monitors the effectiveness of the voluntary phase out of lead ammunition announced by shooting organisations. DP explained that this is citizen science project, where volunteers buy game from outlets, dissect and send any shot to the Environmental Institute for analysis. DP reported that:
 - Annual Shot-Switch studies have been conducted for the past three years, following the announcement of the lead ammunition phase out in 2020. In the first two years, 99% of shot retrieved was lead, the result for this year was 94%. This is a minor improvement, but suggests very high levels of lead ammunition remain in use, three years on from the voluntary phase out announcement.
 - Volunteers collecting samples for the most recent study couldn't find any game birds on shelves at Waitrose. This appears to be because, due to the continued scale of lead ammunition use, Waitrose could not source game they could guarantee was lead free. Waitrose committed to selling only lead-free game in 2019.
- DP added that she was also a co-author for a new [paper](#) showing high levels of lead in raw game-based pet food.
- Members of the APPG thanked DP for her presentation and discussed the how the potential for UK game to provide sustainable, healthy food was being undermined by the

continued high presence of lead in game products.

4. Presentation from Amy Willcock of Warter Priory Estate

- AW provided an overview of the Warter Priory Estate's decision to lead free from the 2021/22 season. AW reported that:
 - The switch has not reduced demand for shooting on the estate, with shoots booked to capacity.
 - Most shooters on the estate now used steel shot, and that accuracy was similar or improved compared to lead. Shooters wishing to use antique guns had successfully switched to bismuth shot.
 - Commitment from the owners of the estate, and a rigorous approach from gamekeepers and loaders in enforcing the new rules, had helped make the switch a success.
 - The shortage of game products on UK shelves this year is partly a consequence of increased demand for UK game from Europe, to make up losses from avian flu.
- Members of the APPG thanked AW for her presentation and commended the Warter Priory Estate for their approach, and commitment to best practice.

5. Update on UK REACH process (Julia, WWT)

- JN gave an update on the UK REACH consideration of restrictions on lead ammunition. She reported that the autumn 2022 public consultation had elicited over two thousand responses, which had delayed the process by six months. She said that the next step in the process would be a consultation on socioeconomic impacts of restrictions, which should open in July and last sixty days, to inform a final dossier presented to the Government in November for decision.

6. AOB

- No items raised.

Next meeting: Wednesday 12 July, AGM for Lead Ammunition APPG